Setting up of Electric Loco Shed and EMU Car Shed at Katwa

2439. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since considered to set up an electric loco shed and an EMU car shed at Katwa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Computerised Reservation System

2440. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik, Raigunj and Balurghat have not been connected with Computerised Reservation System; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide such facilities at the above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at the Siliguri City Booking Office for the convenience of intending passenger at Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri. There is no railway infrastructure or railway staff of Kalimpong, Mirik and Balurghat. Therefore, it would not be possible to provide these facilities here at present. The reservation workload at Raiganj and Kurseong is very negligible and this low volume of reservation work does not justify the provision of computerised reservation facilities.

Sen Gupta Committee

2441. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sen Gupta Committee on electronic media has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Sengupta Committee appointed to review the provisions of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 and to make recommendations, submitted its report on 12.8.96. The recommendations were discussed in a meeting held on 13.9.96 with the leaders of the various political parties. The report was further discussed in the meeting of the State Information Minister Conference held in October, 1996. With a view to avoid further delay in the implementation of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, Government have notified on 22.7.97 that the Act will come into force from 15.9.97. The major recommendations of the Committee are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

The major recommendations relating to Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, of the Expert Group, are as under :

- Prasar Bharati to be a statutory corporation as envisaged in the Act;
- Akashvani and Doordarshan to be split into two completely separate Wings, under the corporate umbrella of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, with close coordination in areas clearly defined by the Corporation;
- Prasar Bharati Board to be restructured with a full-time Chairman combining the functions of Chairman and Chief Executive, six full time members, four part-time members, representative from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Managing Directors of Akashvani and Doordarshan;
- Employees' participation in management below the Board Level;
- Chairman of the Board to be appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Committee having Chairman of Council of States, Leader of Opposition, and Chairman of the Press Council;
- Certain suggestions relate to the term of office of the Chairman, members, as well as recruitment and deployment of officers and other employees;
- The Parliamentary Committee provided for in Section 13 (1) to be dispensed with, as its work can be looked after by the Standing Committee on Communications, the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry and by the proposed Radio and Television Authority of India (as directed by the Supreme Court);
- Need to precisely define the areas in Section 24 in respect of which the Corporation will furnish information to Central Government;
- An authorised share of Rs. 5,000 crores, paid up capital of Rs. 2,000 crores, and the assets of AIR and Doordarshan to be transferred on lease to the Corporation;

- Annual grants-in-aid from the government till Prasar Bharati becomes self-sufficient from advertising and commercial revenue;
- Revival of an annual or lumpsum Broadcast Receiver Licence Fee for television sets;
- The cost of running public service broadcasting channels to be met from Government's funding by way of grant-in-aid, equity or loan;
- Certain suggestions relate to creation of professional marketing set-up, aggressive marketing strategies, dedication of particular channels to education, etc.

Handling of High Power Locos at Asansol

2442. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asansol electric shed is capable for handling of high power electric locos;

(b) if so, reasons for not homing high power locos at Asansol;

(c) whether the Government are considering for homing high power electric locos at there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing infrastructure facilities at Asansol electric locoshed are suitable for maintenance of 4 axled locomotives and not for 6 axled high power locomotives.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Expansion of certain facilities like inspection pits, cranes of higher capacity etc. will be undertaken in due course, when 4 axled locos are phased out and 6 axled high power locomotives are homed for maintenance.

[Translation]

Direct Train from Delhi to Rewa

2443. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no direct rail services has been provided from Delhi to Rewa in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the Prayag Express upto Rewa is likely to be started;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted for linking Singrauli with Rewa rail line;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The feasibility of providing direct train service between Rewa and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Based on the results of the survery, the work of construction of a new line from Lalitpur to Satna and Rewa to Singrauli at a cost of Rs. 925 crores has been included in the Budget 1997-98. The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(g) Does not arise.

Annual Budget to Doordarshan

2444. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Doordarshan, New Delhi sends the annual budget to various Doordarshan Kendras to prepare commissioned and royalty programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount given to these Doordarshan kendras as budget during the last three years alongwith the names of the kendras which were not sent the budget amount;

(c) whether the annual budget for the year 1997-98 has been sent to all the Doordarshan kendras;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and by which time it would be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Launch of Unit of NTPS in West Bengal

2445. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are goint to launch more three units at NTPS in West Bengal;